All the above unions have demanded judicial inquiry into the accident and stern punishment for any officer of BCCL and DGMS found responsible for the accident.

(c) Ministry of Labour has constituted a Court of Inquiry by Justice Gurusharan Sharma, Judge of the High Court of Jharkand. Necessary action against persons responsible will be initiated after the receipt of report.

Tackling of mine mishaps in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.

3480. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "after the mine mishaps, it is operation cover up" in the Times of India, Kolkata, dated 14th February, 2001 regarding tackling of Bagdighi and Chaitudih mine mishaps in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL);

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the follow up action of Government on the report of the probe panel on Gislitand mishap alongwith summary jpf -thC recommendations accepted by Government and those which were rejected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Government of India, in exercise of power under Sub Section (I) of Section 24 of Mines Act, 1952 has appointed Justice Gurusharan Sharma, High Court, Jharkand *to* hold an inquiry into the causes and circumstances attending the accident at Bagdighi mine and to fix up the responsibility for the causes leading to the accident. Prof. Ravindranath, Professor of Mining Engineering of Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi and Shri Kamlesh Sahay, President CCL Colliery Karamchari Sangh, Barkakana have been appointed as assessors. Enquiry report is in progress.

In respect of Chaitudih mine accident, DGMS and ISO are conducting inquiries.

(c) Recommendations of Gaslitand Court of Inquiries as applicable to Ministry of Coal are under implementation in all the collieries of BCCL wherever required. Follow up action have also been taken for early implementation.

The recommendations-observations of Gaslitand Court of Inquiry alongwith its Action Taken Report is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Action Taken Report on the observations and recommendation of the Court of Inquiry on Gaslitand mine disaster

Observation	Status
5. The feasibility of reclamation of opencast workings including the disused once, near river and major source of water, particularly those having connection to belowground workings? either directly or through subsidence cracks and fissures may be examined to prevent inundation in such minds.	Implemented in all subsidiaries except BCCL, where the matter is referred to CMPDIL for study and report.
6. Detailed precautionary measures against danger of inundation should be laid down while working beneath or in the vicinity of rivers and major surface water bodies particularly during rainy season. This may include framing and implementing standing orders for safe withdrawal of persons, provision of float alarm as a means of warning in case of rise in water level in the river in addition to river guards and an effective and specific communication system which can function even independent of electricity and work in adverse condition.	Implemented in all mines of CIL.

Observation	Status
7. The lieed for fore warning the mines about possible impending heavy rain, similar to the warning of impending cyclone issued in coastal areas may perhaps go a long way in ensuring safety of mine workers from inundation. The feasibility of linking the coalfields to the local meteorological observatories for timely dissemination of information may be examined.	Implemented in all companies except BCCL where the matter has been taken up with Meteorological Deptt. of Bihar.
8. The possibility of stoppage of winders due to non-availability of motive force be it steam or electricity, particularly in adverse weather conditions continue to exist in the mine. Therefore the mines which have pits as the only means of exit may require captive generators in working conditions to run the winders in case of emergency. In case of steam boilers, basic precautionary measures like keeping the boilers under proper shed, providing sufficient insulation around the boilers and the pipelines as well as attending the boilers constantly particularly in adverse weather need to be religiously followed.	Fully implemented in CCL, SECL, WCL, & MCL. Action under progress for implementation in ECL & BCCL.
9. The need for an effective communication system over and above the signalling system between surface and belowground which shall remain in operation even with failure of electricity and also be rugged enough to remain operative in adverse condition has been felt strongly. Suitable system may be developed, if not already available and used in belowground mines.	Implemented.

Observation	Status
10. Inter mine barrier is an effective means to prevent transference of danger from one mine to another. In mines where the barriers have become ineffective due to interconnections or otherwise, the same may restored early, even artificially, by constructing suitable dams, explosion proof stoppings and other methods.	Implemented in all subsidiaries except BCCL where the matter is referred to CMPDIL.
11. All disused pits potholes and surface subsidence existing in the vicinity of river or surface source of water and where there is a danger of inundation present shall be sealed by reinforced concrete seals or other suitable or effective means.	Implemented in all subsidiaries except BCCL where the matter is referred to CMPDIL.
RECOMMENDATIONS	
1. Sanctity of Mine boundary:—	Implemented in
A mine boundary shall be such as to contain hazards caused due to mishap- in a neighboring mine with the help of suitable vertical barrier along the boundary in all seams being worked.	WCL, CCL, NEC & SECL. BCCL-Matter referred to CMPDIL.
In case where such barriers do not-exist, neighboring mines will have to be isolated and protected with construction of suitable protective measures along the boundary in all seam workings keeping in view the nature of the hazards.	Implementation in progress in MCL & ECL.
There should be no horizontal transfer of property between two mines.	

Observation	Status
2. Embankment:—	
Construction of embankment is an engineering activity meant to provide protective measures against hazard of inundation from surface water. Current practice of embankment construction is limited to geometric dimensions only. There are no guidelines regarding foundation design, tie materials of construction, nature of slope facing and procedure of construction. There is an urgent need for modification and framing guidelines concerning the above parameters for embankment construction.	Implemented in BCCL, CCL, NEC, WCL & SECL. Implementation in progress in MCL & ECL.
3. River channel:—	
In the Jharia Coalfield with a high concentration of coal seams being worked in the neighbourhood and under the river channel, the later are found perched at higher level compared to post mining depressed Surface topography of the immediate neighbourhood. In case of breech of embankments constructed to provide preventive measures against inundation, the river course finds its way to the adjacent depressed land thereby providing a large source of water supply adding to the magnitude of the problem.	Implemented in BCCL, CCL & SECL. Such conditions do not exist in WCL & NEC. Implementation in progress in MCL & ECL.
Such topographic changes in the surface profile need to be prevented anoYor remedied by suitable corrective action.	

Observation	Status
4. Highest Known Flood Level (HFL):—	
The height of a protective embankment is related to thtf HFL. The HFL on the other hand is related to the amount of water flow in the river channel during a particular year. This however presupposes the cross section of the river channel remaining undisturbed. In reality this gets disturbed due to mining activity as well as considerable amount of silting. Thus it would be necessary to adjust the HFL according to the changed river channel cross section.	Implemented in BCCL, CCL, NEC & SECL. Implementation in progress in MCL, WCL & ECL.
5. Abandoned Pits:—	
All pits proposed to be abandoned as well as all abandoned pits are to be properly secured 0 at the collar level against hazards of inundation by surface water.	Implemented in WCL, CCL, MCL & SECL. Implementation in progress in ECL & BCCL. Such conditions do not exist in NEC.

Recommendations and observations of this report are not applicable to Northern Coalfields Limited. (NCL),

Awarding of dealership to SCs/STs

3481. SHRI VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has reserved 25 per cent of fertilizer dealership to the SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the total number of fertilizer dealership awarded by all the Public, Co-operative and Joint Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Coal and total number of dealerships awarded to the persons belonging to the SCs/STs as on 1st January, 2000 and percentage thereof as compared to the total dealership; and